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Subject: oil spill update (Wednesday 6/9)
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Recent activity has included Dispersant Analyses, Hill Interest, and Communication.

ORD Independent Dispersant Analyses:

- Rick has created a pre-draft Q/A document for the whole organism toxicity tests being overseen by the NHEERL-GB lab. Liz is reviewing the pre-draft for level of detail, clarity, etc. Once data is available from the whole organism tests, the Q/A will be revised to reflect the information and then used as a communication tool.
- NERL-Las Vegas lab is awaiting dispersant samples and well plates from the RTP labs, and will then begin conducting QC on the dispersant samples analyzed.
- OSP has advised us that if the findings of the toxicity and endocrine activity tests do not lead EPA to advise BP to change dispersants, then it may be sufficient for clearance purposes that EPA conduct a robust internal peer review of the test report.

Hill Interest

- Today's hearing at which Al Venosa (NRMRL) and Kevin Costner (Water World) testified went well. The questions posed to the first panel were focused more on operational issues than research. The second panel included interesting discussions of dispersant use. Written testimony and video of the hearing is available on the www.house.gov internet site, under the Science & Technology Committee webpage.
- The Agency, as well as ORD, are receiving many congressional and controlled correspondence related to the oil spill. Minnie reported that she is processing 44 controlled correspondence.
- Today it was reported in Greenwire that the EPA website released the full constituent list (CBI list) of the compounds contained in the Nalco COREXIT dispersants being used in the gulf. This may have been in response to Senator Gillibrand's (D-NY) request last Friday for the Administrator to do so.

Communication:

- ORD is planning internal communications of our actions in response to the oil spill, to provide ORD employees information on our response to the BP Spill. ORD staff would like to better know what the Office is doing, and would like to identify ways they can help. Weekly email updates and a town hall style meeting are also being considered, to enhance ORD-wide communication.
- A new website is being launched that will be administered by the Interagency Alternative Technology Assessment Program. This website is intended to be a consolidated venue for public submission of innovative technologies and suggestions for the gulf oil spill. The site will be monitored by an interagency team of experts, and will help streamline the processing, improve the Federal review, and create a tracking/response system for the many submissions being submitted. The website is expected to be active this week. To date, EPA has received over 2000 submissions; BP has

- Chris Zarba is working to identify other agencies/groups conducting dispersant-related testing, and to improve our coordination with those efforts. He has found that (1) NOAA is conducting toxicity tests on fish tissues and investigating the human health impacts of fish consumption; and (2) BP is collecting field data and analyzing degradation rates and aquatic toxicity. Michele is going to follow up with Chris to identify an FWS contact from the interagency monitoring coordination team. Hal is interested in following up with CDC to learn if they are conducting relevant monitoring.

Other Happenings:

- An academic who is aboard the Brooks McCall told AI that 'omics data indicates that at the 1100-1300 meter depth below sea level, there is a 2 order-of-magnitude increase in the number of oil degraders in the area of the plume, indicating the dispersed oil is available for biodegradation.
- Fran and others are investigating a technology called "Evergreen Burner" that was suggested to EPA by an AP reporter. Not much information has yet been found about the product, but it may be something that is already being used by BP in the gulf.
- NHEERL's Gulf Breeze laboratory has found a vendor from which to procure oil booms, and anticipates they can have the booms delivered in the next several days. The oil detected in GB's intake lines may have been a false positive; however, oil, mousse and tar balls have come ashore on nearby beaches, so it is prudent that GB put booms in place to protect its facilities.

Thanks,
Michele

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